
SWEDISH
Telehealth
Tammy Cress, RN, MSN
Director of Telehealth

Types of Technology

SWEDISH

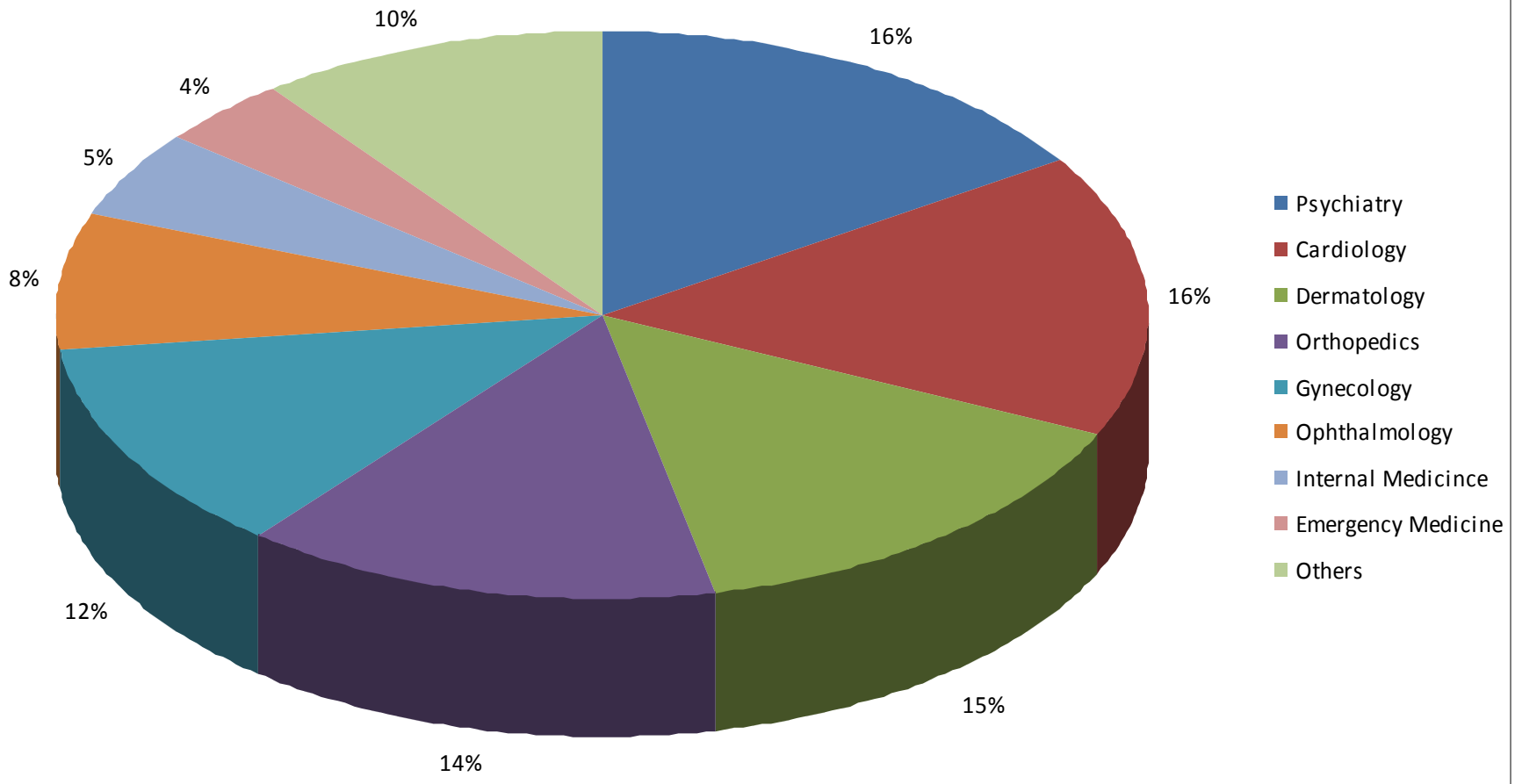
Types of Telemedicine Services

- ***Interactive Services***
  - Real-time consultation between patient and provider via videoconferencing +/- DICOM image review

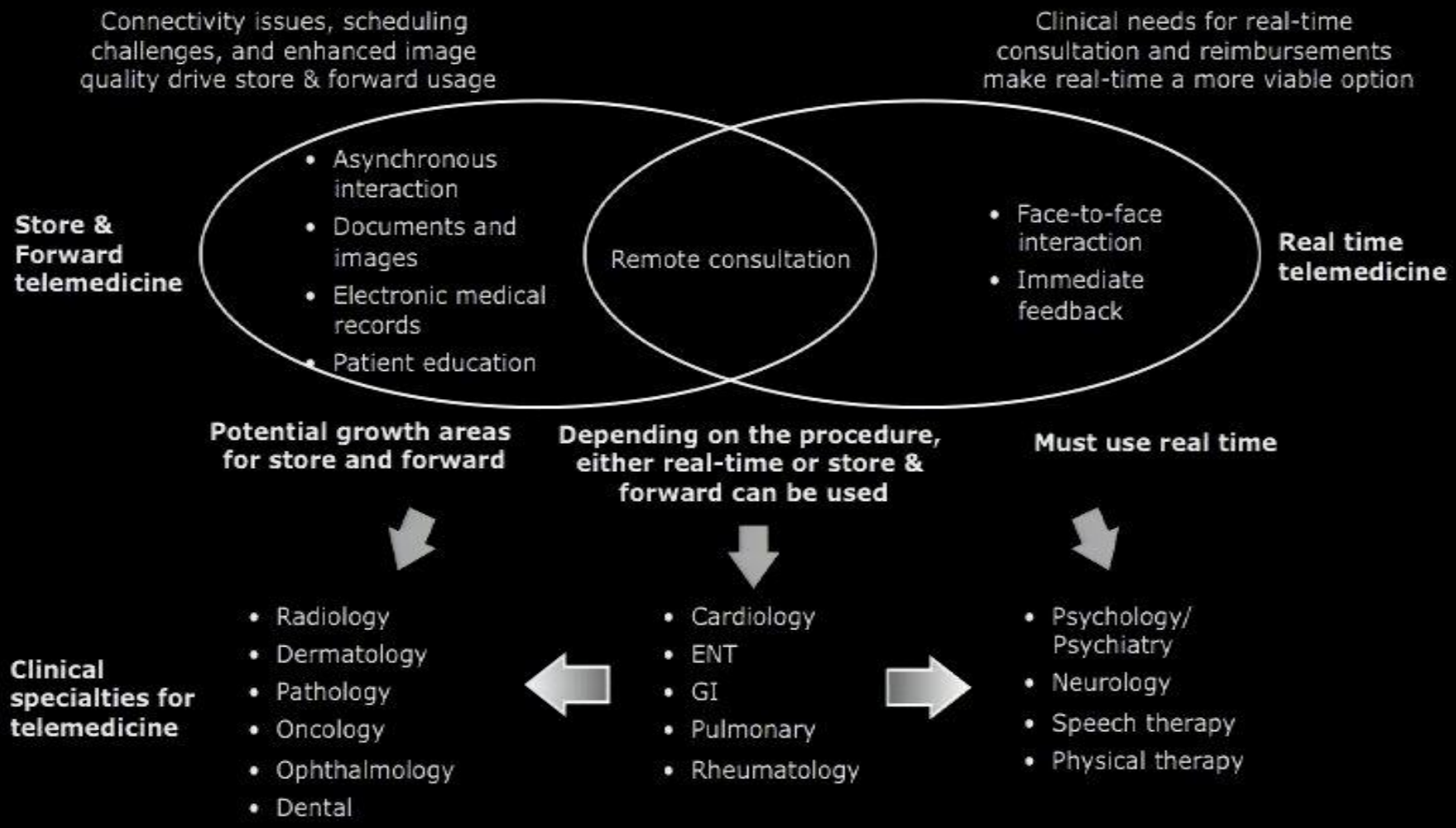
- ***Store and Forward***
  - Acquiring and forwarding data to practitioner for later assessment (models include dermatology, radiology, pathology)

- ***Remote Monitoring***
  - Monitoring patients remotely, with or without video

Telemedicine Market by Specialty



Store and Forward vs. Real Time



Liability and Malpractice

- [1] Telestroke, using videoteleconferencing (VTC) 1st named 1999
- [2] Telestroke reports demonstrate good functional outcome and mortality when compared to conventionally treated patients
- [3] Correct treatment decisions more common via telemedicine (vs. telephone)
  - 98% vs. 82%
    - P = 0.009
- [4] No difference in IV alteplase treatment rates

1. Levine & Gorman, “Telestroke”: the application of telemedicine for stroke, Stroke, 1999.
2. Amarenco et al., Telemedicine for improving emergent management of acute cerebrovascular syndromes. Int J Stroke, 2007.
3. Schwab, S et al., Long-term outcome after thrombolysis in telemedical stroke care. Neurology, 2007.
4. Meyer, B et al., Efficacy of site-independent telemedicine in the STRokE DOC trial: a randomized, blinded, prospective study. Lancet, 2008.

Liability and Malpractice

- Patients are informed consumers and expect this service

- American College of Emergency Physicians
  - "IV alteplase may be an efficacious therapy for the management of acute ischemic stroke if properly used incorporating the guidelines established by the NINDS"

- [1] Most litigation (88%) regarding alteplase treatment is related to failure to treat
  - Emergency Physicians are the most common defendants
    - Plaintiff favorable cases:
      - 83%: failure to treat
      - 17%: injury claimed from treatment

1. Liang et al. Empirical characteristics of litigation involving tissue plasminogen activator and ischemic stroke. Ann Emerg Med, 2008.

Questions

Tammy Cress
Tam.Cress@swedish.org